

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph **0004** as follows:

**[0004]** The CPU 14 is further coupled to a host bus adapter (HBA) card 20 via the PCI/PCIX interface 18. The HBA card 20 is in turn coupled to a network communications medium 26 ~~20~~ (e.g., Internet/world wide web, LAN, WAN, fiber channel, etc.) via a physical connection port 22, also referred to herein as medium access control (MAC) port or interface 22. The HBA 20 further includes a local memory 24, otherwise referred to herein as a network interface buffer (NIB) 24, for storing data handled and processed by a microprocessor (not shown) within the HBA 20.